

FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES
Monday, June 11, 2018, 1:00 PM
Winchester Hall, 3rd Floor
12 East Church Street, Frederick, MD

COA MEMBERS	DOA STAFF	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED	GUESTS
Tom Lawler	Kitty Devilbiss	Elizabeth Chung		County Executive Jan Gardner
Dianne Lewis	Monica Grant	Marcy Gouge		Judy Kendro
Ann McDermott	Sue Ramsburg	M.C. Keegan-Ayer		Geoff Littrell
Thea Uhlig-Ruff	Carolyn True	Donna Kuzemchak		Sally Livingston
Sandra Wastler				Eileen McLaughlin
Marva Younger				Margaret Nusbaum
				Mary Wark

- I. **Call to Order** – Sandi Wastler called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
- II. **Welcome & Introductions** – Sandi welcomed all attendees. She gave a brief description of the Commission and its goals.

Commission members around the table introduced themselves.
Members of the audience were invited to introduce themselves.

- III. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the March 12th, April 9th, and May 14th meetings were not approved as there is not a quorum of members at today's meeting.
- IV. **Nomination Committee New Member Report – Tom Lawler** – Tom stated there are three applicants for membership. Sally Livingston and Mary Wark are both present at today's meeting. Tom gave a brief background for both applicants. The Nomination Committee recommended that they be considered for membership on the Commission. There is no quorum to vote for membership approval, but the decision was made (with no objections) to forward the nominations to the County Executive for approval.
- V. **Update on Senior First Report – County Executive Jan Gardner** – County Executive Gardner thanked the Commission for their service to the community and the seniors of Frederick County. Frederick County has a growing senior population is growing rapidly and will exceed the number of school age children by the year 2020. When CE Gardner came into office, the increasing aging population was one of her four priorities. In the fall of 2015 the Seniors First Committee was created to address senior needs in Frederick County. This Committee made some recommendations and a key recommendation was to have the Department of Aging become a Division level component within county government. There will be a new position of Division Director and she has interviewed several candidates for this position and will have a decision soon. There will be three departments within the Division to include innovative services for active seniors, traditional services for more frail seniors, and operations for administration and data collection. This new Division will be responsible for implementing the directives that come from the Seniors First report. The four directives are 1 - collaborate with community based services to increase resources, 2 - ensure affordable housing for seniors, 3 - ensure adequate primary health care and preventive health services, 4 - assure accessibility of transportation throughout the community.

One of the things done to assist with the first directive was the reestablishment of Community Partnership grants with the non-profits in the community. Grants to assist the senior community were to the Alzheimer's Association, Daybreak Adult Daycare, Mission of Mercy, the Seton Center DePaul Dental program and Partners in Care. These grants also assist Rebuilding Together and Interfaith Housing Alliance which help seniors with housing needs. There is a lot of interest in affordable housing now. There are tax credits available for

developers. However, affordable housing is an issue that affects many people in the community, not just seniors. There is some legislation being developed to make ADUs (accessory dwelling unit) easier to implement in the county. This would be an affordable option for families who are caregiving for their parents. It allows a separate dwelling unit to be placed on a residential property as additional housing. There will be a Housing Fair, *June Bloom*, held this week at the Arc of Frederick on South Market Street.

Frederick County continues to own Citizens Nursing Home and Montevue Assisted Living. Citizens operates as a traditional nursing home and the proceeds from that operation are used to subsidize assisted living residents at Montevue. Currently there are thirty-two subsidized residents at the Montevue. The goal is to be able to subsidize forty by the end of the year. No general fund tax dollars are used to support these residents.

A new program that was recently introduced is the Integrated Mobile Community Health Program. This new program is a partnership between the Frederick County Health Dept., Frederick County Dept. of Fire and Rescue, and Frederick Memorial Hospital. This program reaches out to individuals who are frequent users of the county's 911 program. A team from this group will do a home visit which may include a medication assessment, fall risk assessment, vital check, and mental health assessment. The goal is to provide a better quality of life for the individual as well as costs saving due to decrease in non-urgent 911 calls.

Funding was added to the County's budget for In-home Aides and Program Specialists to assist seniors in the community connect to services. CE Gardner gets regular updates on the Meals on Wheels program and is always looking for ways to improve that program so that seniors are getting the nutrition they need.

Accessibility to transportation has been another priority. The Taxi Access Program (TAP) was developed through the Transit Services program. This program allows anyone who is eligible for Transit Plus (60 or older or medically certified disabled) to purchase subsidized taxi services. Transit has also added a weekly mid-day shuttle service to residents living in Emmitsburg/Thurmont. The use will be reviewed before implementing this as a permanent solution. It can be difficult using Transit for residents in this part of the county.

There has been some progress on the Seniors First initiatives. County Executive Gardner thanked the staff for the work that is being done during this time of transition. She frequently gets compliments

from the community on the work being done in the Department. Sandi thanked CE Gardner for the update of this important initiative.

Dianne Lewis asked CE Gardner about what the county is doing to assist seniors who are in need of affordable housing. She has called the Housing Department about what is available for seniors and there does not seem to be many resources. CE Gardner stated there are many resources and vendors planning to attend the June Bloom Housing Fair. Affordable housing doesn't affect only seniors, it is an issue for people of all ages. Monica stated that there will be sixty vendors at the housing fair that will include realtors, mortgage brokers, and home inspectors. There will be seminars throughout the day to learn how to manage personal income which may be helpful for first time homebuyers. Marva Younger serves on the Affordable Council and added that there will be a lot of vendors there and information available, but it is not just for seniors. This is the first time for this type of event.

- VI. Public Comment** – Judy Kendro thanked CE Gardner, the Commission and the Department of Aging for all they do for the seniors of Frederick County. She asked CE Gardner if anything was being done to attract builders to the area who may be interested in investing in a development that would serve seniors of all levels of senior needs. CE Gardner stated that the City and County have different development requirements. The County has the MDPU (moderately priced dwelling units) ordinance that applies to the senior projects. Dianne asked about the fee in lieu (which allows developers to bypass the MDPU) and if developers can be encouraged to opt out of this fee and build the MDPU. CE Gardner stated that some of the developments have these options locked in and changes cannot be made. There are some senior housing projects in the queue. Homewood has some new development coming up. There will also be some development in Urbana and New Market. The City of Frederick may also have some developments in the queue.

Eileen McLaughlin spoke about a partnering program between the Dept. of Aging and private sector sponsors. This program, Memory Café, meets once a month to give caregivers a chance to have a lunch and activity with the person they are caregiving for. She asked CE Gardner what is a successful model of affordable housing in Frederick County. CE Gardner agreed that Victoria Park is a very nice senior housing model. She stated that Spring Ridge Apartments has a nice senior community available. Thea added that research shows that seniors age better in multi-generational communities.

6/11/18

VII. Announcements –

The June Bloom Housing Fair will be held on June 16th from 930 until 400. It will be held at the Arc of Frederick on South Market Street. There will be vendors with information on affordable housing in general.

Thea announced that the Local Health Improvement meeting will be held on June 20th at 5:00pm at the C. Burr Arts Library. The Senior Support task force is going to give its final update.

There will be no Commission meeting in July. The August 13th meeting will be held at the Bourne Building at 355 Montevue Lane. There will be a panel discussion with representatives from senior service providers in the county.

Carolyn announced that the new Dept. of Aging Resource book is now available. There were 6,000 copies printed this cycle and they are available at the Department of Aging. This is a good reference for individuals in the aging population. The Department of Aging has hired for two open positions. Linda Subramanian is our new Admin. Specialist and Lisa Smith is the new Guardianship Administrator. The part-time driver positions have all been filled.

Monica stated that there is a Rental Specialist position open in the Housing Dept. of Citizen Services. This position is needed due to an increased need for assistance in that area.

VIII. Adjournment -

Sandi thanked everyone for attending today's meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg
Recording Secretary